

# Commander's corner

By Col Tom Deppe  
341st Space Wing commander

**EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!** You're damn right you're **EXCELLENT**. That was the Inspector General's rating for the entire wing ... and it was a lot better than that. Twelve of 17 squadrons were rated **EXCELLENT** and 3 out of 4 groups were rated **EXCELLENT**. No one was rated less than **SATISFACTORY** and a couple of our squadrons were very, very close to **OUTSTANDING**. You all did a fabulous job and deserve congratulations. Hard work pays off and you showed it. Nearly everyone worked every day for the entire 15 days that the IG team was here, to include a lot of people working around-the-clock shifts during the ORI phase. Now you need some well-deserved time off to enjoy the summer. My plan is to have Wing Goal Days on the 13th, 23rd and 30th of July making the last three weekends in July three-day weekends.

The main reason we have to wait until the 13th of July for the first one is because of all the activities we have going on that require a lot of people. Next week is no exception. Tuesday, July 3rd is the Support Group change of command where Colonel Scott Graham will turn over the reigns of his **EXCELLENT** (four out of five squadrons received **EXCELLENT** ratings) Support Group to **Colonel Barry Kistler**. Barry and his wife Lynda come to us from the 50th Space Wing at Schriever AFB, Colo. Also new to the Support Group is **Lieutenant**

**Colonel Bradley Keane** as the Deputy Commander and his wife **Shawn**. Brad is arriving from Maxwell AFB, Ala., where he was an Air War College student. Lt Col Keane is replacing **Lt Col Bob Staib** and his wife **Connie**. "Combat Bob" has made a tremendous effort to make sure our war fighters were ready for the combat situation, and more recently, for the IG. Combat Bob has done an **EXCELLENT** job as everything that he touched indicates. Also new to the Support Group is the new first family of Civil Engineers, **Lieutenant Colonel Phil Rainforth** and his wife **Teresa**.

Another event next week requiring a lot of people is the retirement ceremony parade for **Colonel Jim Eken** and his wife **Dana**. Col Eken has made a huge impact on this wing, first as the Support Group commander for two years and then as my Vice Commander for the last year. A whole lot of credit for everything we do right here goes to Jim Eken. He played a huge role in getting us ready to get our **EXCELLENT** rating. Jim is retiring after 27 years of active duty in our Air Force. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1970 then received his commission from the US Air Force Academy in 1975. He is a master missileer and space operator. He started his career as a crewmember, and later he commanded a squadron at Whiteman AFB in his home state of Missouri. In fact, he grew up not too far from his first assignment in Lincoln, Missouri, where he was an All-State basketball player. Jim played for the AF Academy and on many teams throughout his

AF career. He led the team that I was on to the Offutt base championship in the mid-80s ... that's where we met. Eileen and I will miss Jim and Dana (and **Zach**, their son) and so will the entire wing. Jim and Dana's farewell dinner is Thursday night at Club Malmstrom at 1800. The retirement ceremony parade is Friday outside the three-bay hangar at 0900. Jim, Dana and Zach are moving to Colorado Springs where he can better remember his demerits as a cadet ... not seriously, they own a house there which provides a great incentive.

On an extremely sad note, **SSgt Aaron Wright** from the 341st Civil Engineer Squadron was killed this week in a motorcycle accident ... **speed and alcohol were factors**. Additionally, a civilian passenger on his motorcycle is still in intensive care. She was **not** wearing a helmet. Our sympathy and prayers go to the Wright family and to the family of the civilian passenger. Aaron Wright was the 2000 Civil Engineer Airman of the Year. He was to leave soon to earn his commission on an ROTC scholarship. What a shame, what a **preventable** shame. **I don't know how to say it any clearer ... YOU ARE NOT IMMORTAL ... SPEED, ALCOHOL, AND DRIVING (ESPECIALLY WITH SOMETHING AS DANGEROUS AS A MOTORCYCLE) DON'T MIX.**

We are just barely 30 days into the 101 Days of Summer and we've already had this **PREVENTABLE** death. Please help each other out. Don't let your buddies take chances ... **YOU ARE NOT IMMORTAL.**

## Action Lines

Do you have a comment, suggestion or compliment? The Action Line is here to help. This forum is open and straight forward. If we've done well, let us know. If, on the other hand, we've dropped the ball, I'll owe up to it.

You can e-mail me at [swaction@malmstrom.af.mil](mailto:swaction@malmstrom.af.mil) or call 731-HELP.

Anonymous calls are reviewed, but not all are published. Callers are encouraged to leave

E-mail: [SWACTION@malmstrom.af.mil](mailto:SWACTION@malmstrom.af.mil) Voice message: 731-HELP

their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply.

Remember that the easiest and quickest way to resolve most problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command. Most issues can be taken care of on the spot that way.

Col Tom Deppe  
341st Space Wing commander

## Quick Reference List

Area defense counsel (Capt Kenneth Hobbs) .....	731-4723	Dorm manager (MSgt John Henry) .....	731-4239
Col Scott Graham .....		Finance (Maj Brian Mehon) .....	731-4168
(341st Support Group) .....	731-3791	Housing office (Dottie Gougherty) .....	731-3660
All AAFES facilities (Stefan Marks) .....	454-1301	Acting inspector general (Lt Col Doug Yates) .....	731-7120
Base chapel .....		Law Enforcement (Lt Col Keith Anderson) .....	731-3042
(Chaplain (Lt Col) Leon Savage) .....	731-3721	Legal (Lt Col Joe Treanor) .....	731-2878
Mission support issues (Lt Col Ashley Elder) .....	731-2036	Military equal opportunity (Capt Geis Carlisle) .....	731-4525
Child development center (Susan Ritter) .....	731-2417	Public affairs (Capt Richard Essary) .....	731-4050
Civil engineers (Lt Col Phil Rainforth) .....	731-6188	Retirees activities office (CMSgt retired Jerry O'Reilly) .....	731-4751
Clinic (TSgt Lewry Crawford) .....	731-2806	Safety (Lt Col Kirby Shinneman) .....	731-6712
Command chief master sergeant (CMSgt Mark Silliman) .....	731-3413	Services (Maj Thom Terwilliger) .....	731-4551
Commissary (Dave Woody) .....	452-6441		

## Action Lines

### Safety gear, jackpot

**Q:** I have two concerns. The first one is that there have been adults practicing in-line hockey on the basketball court next to the skate park without any safety gear on at all. I don't think they are being role models for the kids in the skate park. My kids are beginning to ask me why they have to wear theirs, when the adults aren't wearing anything.

**My other concern is the show me the money jackpot at the club. On March 30, the name was called and the individual was not there. I heard a rumor that this individual was called at home, showed up a little while later, and asked**

**Sue for the money. She had told him that he had to be present to win so the money was being rolled over to this week. This individual then called the major, who in turn told Sue to give him the money. As a member of the club, I didn't think this was fair, and have to wonder....if this was an enlisted member as opposed to an officer....would they have gotten the money?**

**A:** In reference to your first concern, safety is our number one concern, and we require all users of the skate park to wear appropriate gear to protect them from injury. We encourage adults to also wear appropriate safety gear when participating in high-risk activities. The 341st Support Group commander has directed the 341st Security Forces Squadron to be on the lookout for adults acting unsafely.

*We appreciate your concern regarding the jackpot that was won on membership night. The individual who won the jackpot was not called at home, but was in fact in the club. Our club is a co-located club, and we strongly believe that all members are treated equally. It didn't matter that the individual was an officer, but rather that he was present to win the jackpot. We appreciate your support of the club. In addition, we are starting a new program - "Members Plus" - that I think you will find exciting and look forward to seeing you in the club.*

### Garage sales

**Q:** If a non-military person from Great Falls wants to shop at our on-base garage sales, do they have to be sponsored-on by a military member?

*A: According to Malmstrom Air Force Base Instruction 31-209, paragraph 2.5.8, personnel desiring off-base visitors to attend their garage sale will call the visitor control center and have their sale put on a list. Visitors requesting to attend the sale will then be given a two-hour pass with the sale sponsor listed as the visitor sponsor. There is no need to use the VCC unless the sale sponsor desires attendees from off the installation.*

Have a safe  
and enjoyable  
Fourth of July!

High Plains  
WARRIOR "Keeping America free and strong by providing combat-ready people and aerospace forces"

Published by the Great Falls Tribune, 205 River Dr. S., P.O. Box 5468, Great Falls, MT 59403, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 341st Space Wing.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the High Plains Warrior are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including

inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Great Falls Tribune of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. The High Plains Warrior is delivered to every base house Fridays, and is printed on recycled newspaper and is recyclable.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the

341st Space Wing Public Affairs Office. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

The deadline for article submission to the Warrior is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, one week before publication. On Thursday holidays the deadline is 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Articles must be coordinated through public affairs. Submissions doesn't guarantee publication. Customers can drop submissions off at the public affairs office in Bldg. 500, Room 150A. For details, call the Warrior office at 731-4050.

Call 791-1420 for more information on advertising.

### 341st Space Wing Public Affairs editorial staff

Commander .....	Col Tom Deppe
Chief, public affairs .....	Capt Richard Essary
Deputy chief, public affairs .....	2d Lt Shannon Nyberg
NCOIC, public affairs .....	TSgt Buzz Ritchie
Chief, internal operations .....	SSgt Russell Petcoff
Editor, High Plains Warrior .....	A1C Harold Barnes III
Staff writer .....	Ann Chris Powell
Public affairs office .....	731-4050
E-mail .....	<a href="mailto:341swpa@malmstrom.af.mil">341swpa@malmstrom.af.mil</a>
Action Line .....	731-HELP